THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. Due to open sky policy, no foreign airlines have withdrawn/curtailed their capacity. In fact due to open sky policy, some airlines have deployed temporary extra capacity to help avoid off-loading of confirmed passengers and tide over the peak season demand. However in view of the steep reduction in demand for air travel following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, some foreign airlines have withdrawn/curtailed/restructured their operations to India to cut down their cost and keep them financially viable.

(b) and (c) Air India is taking necessary steps to recover UK pound 2,68,888 from M/s Welcome Travels as excess payment in consultations with their lawyers.

Permission to private vehicles in the operational area

3099. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VIP passengers are now taking the personal vehicles into the oeprational area at Indira Gandhi International Airport thus flouting airport security;

(b) whether it is also a fact that permitting such vehicles into the operational area can lead to a major accident for obvious reasons; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to strictly enforce the airport security rules?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Personal vehicles are not permitted into operational area, except in respect of a very few dignitaries, who have been permitted to avail the facility of an access vehicle on Protocol, Security and Medical considerations.

(b) and (c) To ensure safety of aircraft operations the authorised vehicles of the dignitaries follow the route of Airports Authority of India's 'follow me' vehicle.